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TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BEFORE MAILING DATE OF FIRST OFFICIAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant submits herewith patent documents of which he is aware that he believes may be material to the patentability of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose. These documents are being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being transmitted before receipt of the first Official Action. Thus, it is believed that no fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit and/or charge our Deposit Account No. 10-0447 for any overpayment

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PATENT

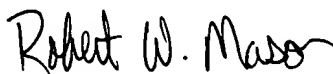
and/or fee deficiency which may be required in connection with this application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material or information exists. Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of any of the references. Applicant further reserves the right to question the relevance and materiality of the references in whole, in part or in combination subsequent to the filing of this statement.

Disclosed on the attached form PTO-1449 is a listing of the prior art references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider each of the cited references and, after such consideration, initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 in the spaces provided next to each reference. Please return a copy of the initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next communication transmitted to the Applicant.

Legible copies of the items listed in Form PTO-1449 accompany this Information Disclosure Statement. Any markings, underlining, notations or the like present in any reference are not to be construed as drawing the Examiner's attention to or away from other parts or portions of the reference.

Respectfully submitted,



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